

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 PC-01 SY-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 DHA-05

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4375

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: ASEC, CASC, PINS, CO

SUBJECT: STARR KIDNAPPING; EL SIGLO ARTICLE

1. TODAY'S EDITION OF EL SIGLO, WHICH IS A MAJOR CONSERVATIVE PARTY DAILY WITH NATIONAL CIRCULATION, CARRIES ARTICLE ENTITLED "THE CIA INTERVENES IN THE CASE OF RICHARD STARR." THE ARTICLE RECAPITULATES ASPECTS OF THE KIDNAPPING CASE THAT HAVE BEEN PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE AND THEN GOES ON TO STATE:" HOURS LATER, THERE ARRIVED IN COLOMBIA, REPRESENTATIVES OF RICHARD STARR WHO MANY PEOPLE ARE SAYING ARE NONE OTHER THAN MEMBERS OF THE CIA EVEN THOUGH THE EMBASSY HAS ALWAYS DENIED THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE SCIENTIST AND THAT SECURITY GROUP." THE ARTICLE ALSO QUOTES UNIDENTIFIED "SPOKESMEN" AS STATING THAT THESE REPRESENTATIVES HAVE MET IN SOME PART OF THE COUNTRY WITH EMISSARIES FROM THE GUERRILLAS." IT EVEN REPORTS THAT MRS. JENSEN IS PRESENTLY IN COLOMBIA.

2. COMMENT: THIS ARTICLE IS VERY DISTURBING BECAUSE IT APPEARS IN ONE OF COLOMBIA'S PRESTIGIOUS NEWSPAPERS, OF RIGHT-WING CHARACTER AND BECAUSE AMONG OTHER THINGS IT IMPLIES THAT EMBASSY HAS BEEN FALSELY DENYING A CONNECTION BETWEEN STARR AND THE CIA. WE ARE THEREFORE TAKING IMMEDIATE STEPS, APPROACHING THE PAPERS DIRECTORS, TO REFUTE THE ALLEGATION ABOUT A CIA CONNECTION AND

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ABOUT THE TEAM OF "REPRESENTATIVES" AND TO DEPLORE THE PAPER'S IRRESPONSIBILITY IN PUBLISHING AN ITEM SUCH AS THIS WHICH COULD JEOPARDIZE STARR'S LIFE. WE WILL PRESS THE PAPER TO RETRACT THE ALLEGATION AND/OR PUBLISH OUR REFUTATION. BECAUSE OF EL SIGLO'S WIDE CIRCULATION, WE WILL ALSO FOLLOW UP BY INFORMING OTHER PAPERS AND MEDIA THAT THE STORY IS WITHOUT FOUNDATION. AT THE SAME TIME, WE WILL ENDEAVOR TO

FIND OUT THE SOURCE OF THE AUTHOR'S "INFORMATION" BUT WE EXPECT
THAT IT WILL PROVE TO BE THE USUAL RUMOR MILL FROM WHICH
LOCAL JOURNALISTS ALL TOO FREQUENTLY DRAW.
DREXLER

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Message Attributes

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